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In the woods near the Artichoke River, in West Newbury, is a fine colony of the maidenhair fern, *Adiantum pedatum*, that was undoubtedly put there many years ago by a lady who lived not far away.

If other members of the American Fern Society would also try the experiment of setting out some of the less common ferns in the woods near their homes, it might prove not only very interesting, but possibly might bring very practical results. The male fern, for instance, might be induced to live and propagate so that eventually it would be more widely distributed.

NEWBURYPORT, MASS.

CYSTOPERIS BULBIFERA BERNH. Our President, Mr. Wm. R. Maxon, has outlined in the May-June Fern Journal some valuable suggestions to fern lovers along the line that each member should give special and accurate study to some particular fern in his locality, with reference to its life history in every detail from season to season, and report any interesting information thus acquired for the benefit of our fellow fern fanciers.

There is in this vicinity a fairly deep ravine containing a running stream, the upper sloping banks of which are shaded mostly with maple, birch and spruce foliage. The illumination from above is sufficient for a rich, healthy growth; the sub-soil is ordinary, grayish clay, overlaid with quite a depth of leafy black mould in which are creamy, granulated, and graduated particles or lumps of carbonate of lime, from the size roughly speaking of rice to that of lump sugar and larger. The middle of the bank is fairly level and dryish but the balance of the incline is quite steep and moist, while through the top of the loam there is a constant seepage of moisture from above, making the soil in most places quite soft and boggy and too wet to tread upon with comfort.

The extent of the area under consideration is, I should say, not more than seventy-five by three hundred feet, On it grows, undisturbed (excepting by myself), a luxuriant and splendid stand of *Cystopteris bulbifera* Bernh.

One day six years ago, I stumbled upon this locality and to my intense delight found many beautiful variant forms of this interesting fern, curled and coiled in very many shapes, star-shaped, forked, right-angled, oval, twisted, one-sided, branched, and one specimen eleven inches broad at the base with only six pair of pinnae; and other feathery forms in beautiful and interesting contorted shapes.

The peculiar feature of this station is, that one can go year after year with the assurance that similar variant forms will reward one's search; while elsewhere for miles around it is most unusual to find a forked or forked specimen.

Perhaps ninety per cent. of the variant forms are of a deeper shade of green than the type; and can readily be detected in this pretty fern bed by the color test alone.

Three years ago I removed one dozen of the handsomer forms of these plants to my home fern garden in the month of June, hoping to see an even greater improvement by transplanting. In this, I was doomed to disappointment; every plant grew splendidly, sending out many healthy new fronds but each returned to their original type variety. For three years these plants have been carefully cultivated and cared for with the result that there have been but three or four forked pinnae to reward my experiment. I have tried to spell it out and have failed unless the seepage of possibly cold spring water, charged so heavily with lime carbonate, chills the plant roots, influencing the growing fern to turn, squirm and twist under the cold root bath.

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